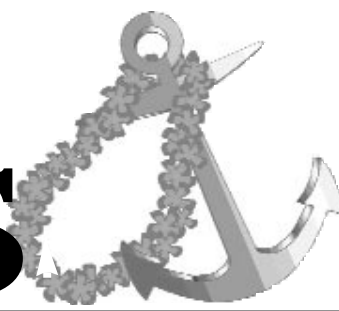


Hawaii Navy News



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July 21, 2000

IN BRIEF

NEX to change bus routes

The Navy Exchange has changed its bus schedule to allow for more frequent stops on Subase and Naval Station. The buses will make stops every 30 minutes, instead of every hour, and have canceled their Ford Island route.

The NEX buses run 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays. Buses will make stops every half-hour at all of the regular Naval Station and Subase bus stops.

For more information about the NEX bus routes or these changes, call 421-3401.

Barbers Point Housing Association

The Barbers Point Housing Association will hold a community involvement meeting at 6:30 p.m. July 26.

The meeting will be held at the Barbers Point Community Youth Center. For more information, call 682-8012.

AT&T Hawaii Dragon Boat Festival

The 5th annual Hawaii dragon boat races will be held Saturday and Sunday at Ala Moana Beach Park. More than 50 teams from around the world will race their dragon boats beginning at 8 a.m. each day. The festival will feature local music groups, food booths and more.

The festival will take place near the McCoy Pavillion and the races will occur at the swimming channel.

For more information, call 593-9776 or 522-0804.

INSIDE



Morale Welfare and Recreation's LIBERTY program travels to Maui for a snorkeling adventure...B1

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Santa Fe wins Arleigh Burke Award

By JO3 McClain Shewman,
COMSUBPAC Public Affairs

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Adm. Jay L. Johnson recently announced that USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) as the Pacific Fleet 1999 Arleigh Burke Award Winner.

The Arleigh Burke award, named after the famed "31-knot" Adm. Arleigh Burke, is awarded to the most improved ship, submarine, or aviation squadron in each fleet, Pacific and Atlantic.

"[Santa Fe's] selection for this award is a testimony to the steadfast professionalism and dedication of their personnel over the past year," said Adm. Johnson.

"Through leadership and hard work they have improved battle efficiency be-

yond all expectations," added Johnson.

"I am extremely proud of these guys," said Cmdr. David Marquet, commanding officer of Santa Fe. "Last year they did it all: a top-notch deployment, dramatic improvements in all inspection grades, as well as significant improvement in retention and morale," added Marquet. "Our Commadore, Capt. Mark Kenny, and his staff at Submarine Squadron Seven, were incredibly supportive of the command too," he said.

According to Adm. Thomas Fargo, Commander-In-Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet, it's important to award ships with the Arleigh Burke Award because "It recognizes how much can be accomplished when you put a team together to execute important missions in support of our national secu-

urity."

"The ships that are the most successful are the ships where everybody is doing the job that is designed for them. The department heads are working hard at making their individual departments function smoothly. The division officers and [leading petty officers] are taking care of the Sailors in their division that they know so well and the Sailors on the deckplates are well trained at making sure the equipment is fully operable and maintained," said Fargo.

USS Santa Fe's increasing progressions in reenlistment, advancement and attrition are some of the factors contributing to the receipt of the award. Santa Fe displayed a significantly improved com-

▼ See SANTA FE, A-8

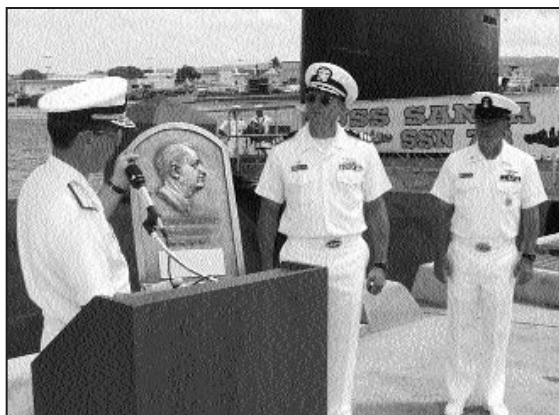


Photo by JO3 McClain Shewman

Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet Adm. Thomas Fargo, presents the Arleigh Burke Trophy to USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) Commanding Officer, Capt. David Marquet and Chief of the Boat MMCM (SS) Mike Bruner.

Pearl Harbor 'tigers' cruise



JO3 Brenda Diggs photo

Pearl Harbor Survivors (from left to right) Bert Davis, Arthur Kowalski, Clark Simmons, Ralph Lindemeyer, Woodrow Derby, Stuart Hadley and Gordon E. Jones, bow their heads in a moment of silence aboard the USS Arizona Memorial in honor of their fallen shipmates. These Pearl Harbor Survivors and more than 20 others from around the country gathered in Hawaii for a "Tiger" Cruise to San Diego aboard the USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) last weekend.

By JO3 Brenda Diggs
Navy Region Hawaii

More than 28 Pearl Harbor survivors from around the country gathered here last weekend to ride aboard their namesake ship, USS Pearl Harbor, for an eight-day Navy "Tiger" cruise from Honolulu to San Diego, Calif.

"I feel it was important to come out here and take the cruise with Pearl Harbor to bring back memories and to be with shipmates that experienced that same thing I did on Dec. 7, 1941," said Stuart Hadley, a former USS West Virginia Sailor and Pearl Harbor survivor.

A Tiger cruise allows Sailors who are assigned to a ship to sponsor relatives or civilian guests on embarks. These embarks are limited to ports between the continental U.S. and Hawaii and are conducted on a not-to-interfere with operations basis.

"It makes me feel great to

▼ See TIGERS, A-10

Pearl Harbor Sailors make teen's wish come true

By Karen S. Spangler
Navy Region Hawaii

An honor guard of Navy Sailors, immaculate in dress whites and standing at attention, flanked each side of a traditional red carpet of welcome.

Ceremonial sideboys saluted as the ship's bell tolled the approach of its honored visitor - a teenage boy with a special wish.

For 14-year-old Tom Ward, it was a dream come true - an opportunity for a trip to Hawaii for a firsthand look at a Navy ship and submarine at Pearl Harbor.

For the Sailors aboard USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and USS Honolulu (SSN 718) and their commanders, it was a chance to be a part of fulfilling a child's wish and to see the smiles that lit up the youngster's face.

Since the age of seven, Tom has been interested in military vessels and has spent a lot of time over the years reading about military history. The strong military background in his family probably had much to do with that. His grandfather served with the U.S. Marine Corps and the family proudly talks about its veterans of the Vietnam Conflict and World War II.

But he was awed as he gazed at the immense proportions of USS Lake Erie, a 567-foot long, 9,516-ton Ticonderoga

class, Aegis guided missile cruiser. "It is big!" he exclaimed, eliciting smiles from Sailors onboard the vessel at the teen's reaction to their "home" on the sea.

Escorted on a tour of USS Lake Erie by Lt. Cmdr. Ailes, the ship's executive officer, Tom and his family visited the wardroom, foc'sle, Combat Information Center (CIC), the bridge and the helicopter hanger. He even had an opportunity to participate in a simulated theater ballistic missile exercise.

For the teenage boy, sitting at the consoles and actually firing the missile during the simulation was an exciting event. He can hardly wait to go back home to Connecticut to share his experiences with his friends.

During his visit to the cruiser, Tom was presented with a command ball cap, the ship's flag with the motto "Don't Give Up the Ship" and other ship memorabilia and was also made an honorary crew member of USS Lake Erie.

His dream was made possible by the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a national organization that focuses on making dreams and special wishes come true for children under the age of 18 with life-threatening illnesses. "The Make-A-Wish Foundation is wonderful and really came through for Tom in fulfilling his dreams.



Photo by JO3 McClain Shewman

Tom Ward tours the USS Honolulu during a visit to Pearl Harbor. His dream, to tour a Navy ship and submarine, were made possible by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

It's overwhelming," said Laurie Ward, Tom's mother.

Founded in 1980 in Phoenix, Arizona, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has 80 chapters in the United States and its ter-

ritories and 20 international affiliates on five continents.

More than 66,000 children

▼ See WISH, A-9

Navy wife, teacher follows dream, succeeds with book deal

By JO3 Brenda Diggs
Navy Region Hawaii

Have you seen God lately? If not, you can ask any one of the children at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Ewa Beach and they'll be sure to tell you where He can be found.

With help from fourth-grade teacher, Shelly Mecum, those kids in grades kindergarten through eighth spent a full day "finding God".

Mecum a reading/writing teacher at the school told the children, "I want you to go and find God, take his picture and then write about Him." That was more than two years ago.

She had been working at the small Catholic school for little more than a year when it looked to her that the school's future was grim due to its disrepair. And ironically, it was a sad day in the world's history - the day Mother Teresa died - that gave her hope and the idea to change the school's future for the better.

That morning, Mecum went to school early and was unaware of Mother Teresa's death. "It was during our morning prayer that the principal requested we observe a moment of silence for her," said Mecum.

"All the children knew how fond I was of Mother Teresa, so I could just feel all the eyes on me," she said. I tried so hard to hold back the tears; I didn't want the children to be scared, but I couldn't. I told them it was okay, because she is in heaven now. Then Kiley Kealoha from the fifth grade came and sat beside me. She realized I had no tissue, so she untied the ribbon from her hair and rapped it around my wrist and said "here Ms. Mecum you can use this." "At that moment I fell in love with this school."

It was that love that fueled an amazing journey for Mecum, her family and the entire school. She had an idea to write a book about a one-day field trip her students would take to "find God".

She wanted to show the kids they can write and wanted to prove it to them by publishing

▼ See BOOK, A-2